

UAE's fifth green building gets US certification

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Dubai: The UAE's fifth green building has been certified as US LEED platinum while 450 buildings are currently waiting to be certified in Abu Dhabi and Dubai as building codes for both emirates are being drawn up.

Mario Seneviratne, World Green Buildings Council secretary congratulated Ali Bin Towaih, executive director of Enpark and Director of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (Seed) at Tecom Investments on the completion of the UAE's fifth green building, the Tecom Investment Offices, during a Solar Days conference on Monday in Knowledge Village.

The building has been certified with the highest rating from the US LEED system. Buildings can seek certification from any ratings body said Seneviratne, a Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) faculty member and director of Green Technologies.

Dubai and Abu Dhabi are currently drawing up building regulations for green buildings upon which rating systems can be developed from, he said.

"The amount of CO2 released in the next century will be exponential," said Seneviratne, and buildings are still responsible for emitting the most emissions due to their high resource content.

Green buildings prioritise energy efficiency, sustainable materials, health and wellbeing and water efficiency.

Currently the UAE produces just two per cent of its energy from renewable sources and this is predicted to rise to seven per cent in 2020, based on Enpark and Masdar initiatives, compared to European renewable energy targets of 20 per cent by 2020, he said. More regulations will help the growth of renewable energy in the UAE, he added.

The Emirates Green Building Council previously worked with the US Green Buildings Council to put together a new version of the US LEED rating system that will include regional credits and can be applicable to any country.

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